

Acquisition Reform Success Story



A-10 Prime Contract

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Integrating Contractor: Open Competition
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Program Description

The A-10 PRIME program is designed to establish an integrated Program Office/Contractor engineering and management team to sustain and improve the A-10 weapon system. The program will facilitate establishment of a three way partnership between the warfighter, the System Program Office (SPO), and the PRIME contractor. Included in the A-10 PRIME contract are aircraft modification development, modification integration and production, OFP software development and production, and sustaining engineering tasks. The goal of this approximately 450+ million dollar 9 year contract, is to ensure that growth and flexibility exists to meet future weapon system needs. Basically, this contract will bring together the various future software and aircraft modification efforts under one prime contract. The program is presently in the draft RFP(DRFP) release stage with the final RFP scheduled for release in May 1997

How Streamlining Made a Difference

A working level relationship with industry was developed early in the A-10 PRIME program planning by holding three separate government /contractor team sessions *before* the acquisition strategy , the Statement of Objectives(SOO), and the draft RFP were formulated. The first two sessions were crosstalk meetings held in May and September of 1996, followed by a two day risk management workshop held in October 1996. In the workshop session, some 26 individuals representing 13 different contracting interests participated in risk assessment discussions with A-10 PRIME program personnel. As part of the workshop a preliminary risk matrix and SOO were developed. Throughout the crosstalks and workshop sessions, electronic media was used to publish the minutes using the industry accessible McClellan World Wide Web internet site. Likewise the McClellan site was used to publish the DRFP and related documents. This early contractor involvement and improved government/contractor communications, led to increased incorporation of contractor concerns and inputs into the solicitation documentation, which in turn resulted in a final SOO and the draft RFP with greatly improved clarity to potential bidders. Contractor feedback in response to the release of the DRFP indicates that interest in competing for the PRIME contract is very high, e.g. the recently held pre-solicitation conference attracted the attendance of 21 different contractors.

<u>MEASURE</u>	<u>FROM (typical in past)</u>	<u>TO(under acq reform)</u>
SOW (size)	>30 page SOW	2 page SOO
CDRLs(size)	>10	0 for DRFP, (1 expected for RFP)
DRFP with Attachments	>300 Pages	<150 Pages

Bottom Line: Early involvement of industry ensured that all program **risks were identified early** and important issues dealt with up-front thus allowing for a completely unambiguous DRFP, a **reduced size** of key acquisition documentation as well as a high level of interest in competing by industry.

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